

Rogers, Pat@DeltaCouncil

From: Ernest Tufft <atufft@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 1:59 PM
To: Rogers, Pat@DeltaCouncil
Subject: Comments on Delta Plan as Requested

Please read my comments. I was cut off due to lack of board willingness to listen to my remarks.

I'm Ernest Tufft, steering committee member of Friends of the Smith Canal in Stockton, and a waterfront property owner since 1999.

I'm also Owner of Tough Trucking, an agricultural produce export company transporting produce from CA to NYC. I have stood on my dock and watching the twice daily delta tide come and go for 18 years, and I have witnessed decline in fish populations and number of anglers fishing for them. I am very familiar with agricultural practices through the United States.

I'm here as an unpaid volunteer and I'll comment in my own way, if you don't mind. I find this report slanted toward agribusiness, and maybe the best way to reword this document would be to trash it and start over. I'm sorry that I have to be so blunt.

I have in the course of my produce trucking business seen what terrible economic and habitat harm export agriculture has on the California both in the Delta region and south San Joaquin Valley, where air and water quality are among the nations worst, and where wage rates are lowest in California.

We have heard over and over code words signaling the board's support for the immigrant and low wage industry agriculture owned by a few billionaire farmers in the Westlands region of Kern County. Simple observation shows that operations in south Central Valley have clearly manipulated numbers, by ripping out old orchards, and replanting with seedlings, even as they have expanded acreage and operations during drought years.

It's interesting that throughout the drought years, LA Metro Water District controlled, and CA Aqueduct Fed, Pyramid Lake was the only water storage

kept at 90% of capacity during the drought years. But, Southern CA residents don't demand this.

So this expanding water storage and conveyance system is a real expense paid for not only by taxpayers and habitat in Northern California, but everyone in Southern California as well.

CA Water Fix has nothing to do with the co-equal goals of the Delta habitat and sustainable agriculture water resource.

My business operations allows me close collaboration with those living in Los Angeles and San Diego. These residents have zero interest in the water contractor speculation that fuels this Water Fix project, and they certainly don't want to pay for the business expense of desert farming. The place the priority of saving fish populations over growing cash export crops.

Code words Dual Conveyance and Flexible Options are engineering terms that have nothing to do with restoration of habitat. There remains much that is unknown about fish science, but the timeline history of engineering projects--levee, gate, and Dam construction--is unmistakably associated with decline in fish and animal populations.

Again, Dual Conveyance and Flexible Options has nothing to do with fresh water supply for urban areas, and everything to do with water contractors who demand through the board that taxpayers and San Francisco Bay Estuary pay for the business expenses of a handful of billionaires.

Co-equal goals should include demand that water receivers outside the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Watershed improve self-help strategies for water supplies and recycling of what water they receive.

There has been zero discussion not only of options for desalination plants in San Luis Obispo, which the billionaire farmers could pay for out of pocket since they would take 80% plus of the water.

There is zero discussion about demanding greater water recycling and water capture and storage within the watersheds turned flood control projects of the Los Angeles, Santa Ana, and San Diego Rivers.

I see zero mention and discussion about how water capture and storage from these Southern California seasonal rivers can serve to replace water demand on Northern California watersheds. Spend money down there to completely transform Southern California appreciation of their own rivers before the Tunnels project is even contemplated.

Ultimately, though water should not be exported for development of new farm acreage, industry devoted to a taxpayer dependent subpopulation of the state that includes billionaire farmers and a transient population of underpaid farm workers. Water supplies in California are inherently NOT Reliable.

Sent from my iPhone

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